

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 20, 1865.

Read twice and referred to the Select Committee on Slavery and Freedmen.

AN ACT

To establish, in the War Department, a Bureau for the Relief of
Freedmen and Refugees.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That a bureau be established in the War Department, to con-
4 tinue during the present rebellion, to which shall be committed
5 the supervision, management, and control of all subjects re-
6 lating to refugees and freedmen from rebel States, or from
7 any district of country within the territory embraced in the
8 operations of the army, under such rules and regulations as
9 may be prescribed by the head of the department and ap-
10 proved by the President. The said bureau shall have one
11 chief, to be appointed by the President, by and with the ad-
12 vice and consent of the Senate, whose compensation shall be
13 three thousand dollars per annum, and such number of clerks
14 as may be deemed necessary by the chief of the bureau, and
15 approved by the Secretary of War, not exceeding two of the

16 fourth class, two of the third class, three of the second class,
17 and five of the first class.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the President
2 may assign to such bureau, for the benefit of said refugees
3 and freedmen, the temporary use of such abandoned lands and
4 tenements in insurrectionary States, not belonging to loyal
5 owners, as may be necessary, and may direct such issues of
6 provisions, clothing, and fuel as he may deem needful for the
7 immediate and temporary shelter and supply of destitute and
8 suffering refugees and freedmen and their wives and children,
9 under such rules and regulations as he may direct.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That all laws and
2 parts of laws conflicting herewith are hereby repealed.

Passed the House of Representatives February 18, 1865.

Attest:

EDWARD McPHERSON, *Clerk.*

By CLINTON LLOYD, *Chief Clerk.*